Under these schemes, various incentives by way of subsidies are being provided on critical inputs like production and distribution of seeds, minikits, rhyzobium culture, gypsum/pyrite, improved farm implements, plant protection equipment, sprinkler sets etc. In addition, frontline and general demonstrations are organised on farmers' fields to transfer the production technology.

(c) and (d) A target of 159 lakh MTs of Oilseeds production has been fixed for kharif' 99 As against this, the likely production is estimated at 120.00 lakh MTs.

Cotton growing regions in Madhya Pradesh

273. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted any intensive scheme for the cotton growing regions;

(b) if so, since when the said proposal is pending for approval;

(c) if there is any delay, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when this proposal will be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted a proposal in June, 1999 on cotton development under the new scheme of Technology Mission on Cotton, which is under examination of the Government of India.

Purchase of GAIL's Equity Through GDRs

*274. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, despite CAG critcising the Government for disinvesting shares of PSUs at prices lower than real prices, Government agreed to the deal with MNCs like British Gas, Enron, Templeton, Enron and Fidelity who had purchased 20 per cent of GAIL's equity through global GDRs; and

(b) the justification for selling the national assets in the foreign market at throwaway prices instead of offering them to the Indian investors?